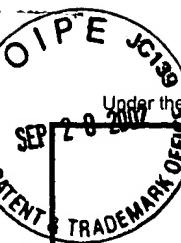


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REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.

See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

<i>Application Number</i>	09/177,572
<i>Filing Date</i>	October 23, 1998
<i>First Named Inventor</i>	YOSHIHIRO TERASHIMA
<i>Group Art Unit</i>	2674
<i>Examiner Name</i>	K.M. Nguyen
<i>Attorney Docket Number</i>	03500.013035

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

a. Previously submitted

- i. Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on August 22, 2002
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
- ii. Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
- iii. Other _____

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- b. Enclosed
 - i. Preliminary Amendment
 - ii. Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
 - iii. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
 - iv. Other Applicant petitions to extend the time for taking further action one month from August 22, 2002 to and including September 22, 2002. A check in the amount of \$110.00 in payment of the extension fee is enclosed.

2. Miscellaneous

- a. Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required)

- b. Other _____

3. Fees

- a. The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies in the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 06-1205

- i. RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) 09/23/2002 RHARIS1 00000013 09177572
- ii. Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17) 01 FC:173 740.00 OP
- iii. Other _____

- b. Check in the amount of \$ 740.00 enclosed

- c. Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print/Type)	Joseph W. Ragusa	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	38,586
Signature		Date	September 19, 2002

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on:

Name (Print/Type)		
Signature		Date

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND FEES and Completed Forms to the following address: Commissioner for Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231.